

VOTE YES ON SB2021

Medicaid Eligibility Determination and Renewal Reform Act Senators Heather Steans - Omar Aquino - Iris Y. Martinez - Laura Fine

Context: The Problem

Medicaid is critical to over three million Illinoisans who depend on it for their health care. This program is a staple of our health care system and it should be easy and efficient for eligible people to get covered and stay covered. Unfortunately, this is not the case:

- ✗ **Almost half of everyone covered by Medicaid gets dropped each year** when their case comes up for renewal. Most of these people remained eligible but lost coverage due to procedural issues like lost mail and system glitches.
- ✗ People applying for Medicaid routinely must wait months to find out if they have been approved. **This delay violates federal law** which requires the state to make an eligibility determination within 45 days.
- ✗ The constant churn on and off Medicaid causes harmful gaps in coverage that prevent eligible Illinoisans from getting the care they need to stay healthy.
- ✗ The state faces significant administrative costs that could be saved if the eligibility determination and renewal process were more efficient and leaves federal matching dollars unclaimed due to coverage gaps.

We Can Do Better

SB2021 takes the best practices from other states who do not experience these problems and puts forward a comprehensive approach to reforming Illinois' Medicaid application and renewal processing system. Specifically, the bill will:

- ✓ Require better coordination between the Medicaid eligibility system and related programs such as SNAP;
- ✓ Make Medicaid renewals simpler and less burdensome by reducing required paperwork and increasing the types of data verified electronically;
- ✓ Restore Medicaid coverage in a timely manner for those who have had a lapse due to cancellation at renewal; and
- ✓ Expand access to the electronic eligibility portal (Manage My Case) for both applicants and authorized providers to better utilize electronic notifications and communications.

Help us make sure Illinoisans can get and keep the health care they depend on! Support SB2021!

For more information or to sign on to this bill, please contact:

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Organizational Support

*updated as of 3/7/2019

Protect Our Care Illinois Coalition
ACA Consumer Advocacy
Access Living
Age Options
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Champaign County Health Consumers
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Cook County Health
Citizen Action
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance
Disability Resource Center
Don Moss & Associates
Enlace Chicago
Erie Family Health Centers
EverThrive Illinois
GIPPCC/Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care
Coalition
Heartland Alliance
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Healthy Illinois
Housing Action Illinois
Howard Brown Health
Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Coalition for Health Access
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living
Illinois Public Health Association
IMPACT CIL
Indivisible Illinois
Indivisible Peoria Area
Indivisible Metro East
Lake County Health Department and Community
Health Center
Lake County Center for Independent Living
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Legal Council for Health Justice
LIFE Center for Independent Living (LIFE CIL)
Mental Health America of Illinois
NAMI Chicago
NAMI Illinois
National Kidney Foundation of Illinois
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Northwestern Illinois CIL
Options Center for Independent Living
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Progress Center for Independent Living
Project Vida Inc.
Rosecrance Health Network
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU Healthcare IL
Sinai Health System
Small Business Majority
Springfield Center for Independent Living
Supportive Housing Providers Association
TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)
The Josselyn Center
The Kennedy Forum
Thresholds
Trilogy Behavioral Health
Young Invincibles